

Response: Potential impacts to individuals of spring-flowering goldenrod within the Maysville Goldenrod Roadside sites. Approximately 0.91 acre, within the right-of-way, of the 13 acres of total habitat occupied by this occurrence of spring-flowering goldenrod will be potentially directly affected as a result of this project. This occurrence is estimated to include over 1,000 individual plants.

Spring-flowering goldenrod generates readily from collected seeds and mitigation for unavoidable impacts to this species may be conducted in conjunction with the proposal for the US 70 Havelock Bypass (R-1015).

The US 70 Havelock Bypass mitigation plan includes a combination of relocation of affected populations to unaffected suitable habitat or collecting seeds or propagules from affected populations to use in establishing new populations in unaffected suitable habitat. NCDOT is proposing to collect seeds from the areas to be affected and distributing the seeds into an area of the CNF where the species does not currently occur but where there is appropriate habitat. Appropriate habitat is proposed in the Recommended mitigation plan for *Solidago verna* in Craven Co., North Carolina; Havelock Bypass, R-1015.¹, prepared by Dr. John Stucky for NCDOT in 2006. Potential relocation sites for other PETS plant species have not been specifically identified.

Comment: “If suitable Spring-flowering Goldenrod habitat exists within the project area, a survey should be conducted if suitable habitat still exists within the project area.”

Response: Updates to the PETS Survey did reveal that the spring-flowering goldenrod occurs in the highway ditch shoulder community along US 17 throughout segment 3 of the study area. The proposed action may impact individuals of the species and result in the loss of occupied habitat for the species. Approximately 0.91 of the 1.21 acres of habitat occupied by this species within the right-of-way will be directly affected as a result of the project.

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